

Page 3
Healing with spice
Researchers discover saffron could help fight MS

Page 4
Staff spotlight
Mathematical biologist uses geometry to design quilts

Page 9
A new approach to global health
Medical students use mock debates to probe health issues

Volume 49 Issue 6 | November 18, 2011 | www.ualberta.ca/folio

U of A artists take Manhattan

Geoff McMaster

It was the kind of opening artists dream about: a chic gallery in the heart of New York's art district, hundreds of people dazzled by the works on display, editors from some of the news organizations picking up on the buzz and even an appearance by international singing star Josh Groban.

By the end of the evening there was no doubt. *Perceptions of Promise* was a hit.

"It's absolutely fabulous," said a beaming Liz Ingram, U of A professor of printmaking and one of the artists in the show. "I was picturing [the exhibit] not being so popular because we're from Alberta and people might not know about it, but the turnout has been truly amazing."

The interdisciplinary exhibition is an exploration of the legal, ethical and social issues around stem cell research through the eyes of U of A and other internationally known artists. It officially opened Nov. 10 at the Chelsea Art Museum in midtown Manhattan after a successful run at the Glenbow Museum in Calgary last winter.

It seems the word got out. The New York show attracted a crowd of some 200-300 from the arts and science communities, and several editors from news services such as Reuters and Bloomberg. Stephen Change, CEO of the New York Stem Cell Network, participated in a panel discussion.

Editors from *Science* and *Scientific American* are also scheduled to attend later this week. Overall, response has been so strong that the Chelsea has extended the show one week beyond its 10-day run, to wrap up on Nov. 26.

Originally conceived by Sean Caulfield, U of A professor of printmaking, and his brother Tim, research director of the U of A's Health Law and Science Policy Group, the project aims to bring scientists and visual artists together

Continued on page 2

Chillin' for charity



Students, faculty and staff took the plunge in Quad Nov. 16 to raise money for the United Way Campaign. For complete coverage, see story page 5.

New rehabilitation chair serves needs of military

Vanessa Ferreira

When Cpl. Mark Fuchko lost both legs below the knee in 2008 after striking an improvised explosive device while on duty in Afghanistan, he thought his life was over.

However, after receiving advanced care at the University of Alberta Hospital, countless hours of rehabilitation at the Glenrose Rehabilitation Hospital and outstanding support from family and peer groups, Fuchko has since learned how to walk again and is thriving in life post-combat.

Although Fuchko says the care he received was first-rate, many believe more should be done to meet the needs of returning Canadian soldiers and veterans. The recently established Canadian Military and Veterans' Chair in Clinical Rehabilitation at the

U of A's Faculty of Rehabilitation Medicine aims to do just that.

The chair will be Canada's first academic leader committed to the advancement of clinical research exclusively intended to serve the rehabilitation needs of the Canadian Forces and veterans. It is part of the U of A's commitment to stimulate learning and discovery that is cutting-edge, generating new knowledge, innovations and discoveries that transform everyday life.

During a lecture held at the U of A's Calgary Centre on the eve of Remembrance Day, Dean Martin Ferguson-Pell, associate dean Elizabeth Taylor and associate professor Jacqueline Hebert engaged an audience of more than 80 health administrators, members of the Canadian Forces and their families, and support-organization representatives, discussing the need for a greater focus on mili-

tary rehabilitation and how the new chair will address it.

"In Canada, as in most NATO countries with publically funded health care, injured soldiers and veterans are treated and cared for the same as regular civilians," said

Ferguson-Pell. "Military patients have unique needs and require unique treatment."

Taylor reminded the audience that most soldiers with physical in-

Continued on page 2



(L-R) Cpl. Mark Fuchko, Liz Taylor, Jacqueline Hebert and Dean Martin Ferguson-Pell, spoke at the U of A Calgary Centre about the critical need for advancements in military rehabilitation.



UNIVERSITY OF ALBERTA
CONFERENCE SERVICES

CATERING | LISTER MARKET & MARINA | CAB
www.conference.ualberta.ca

DINING

folio

Volume 49 Issue 6

Office of the Vice-President
(University Relations)
Marketing and Communications
6th Floor, General Services Building
University of Alberta
Edmonton, Alberta T6G 2H1

Acting Editor

Geoff McMaster
geoff.mcmaster@ualberta.ca

Contributors

Bev Betkowski, Michael Brown,
Richard Cairney, Michael Davies-Venn,
Micheline Deck, Vanessa Ferreira,
Jamie Harlon, Jane Hurly, Raquel
Maurier, Geoff McMaster, Quinn Phillips

Graphic Design

Marketing and Communications
folio's mandate is to serve as a
credible news source for the university
community by communicating accurate
and timely information about issues,
programs, people and events and by
serving as a forum for discussion and
debate. folio is published 23 times
per year.

The editor reserves the right to limit,
select, edit and position submitted copy
and advertisements. Views expressed
in folio do not necessarily reflect
university policy. folio contents may
be printed with acknowledgement.

Inquiries

Comments and letters should be
directed to Geoff McMaster, acting
editor, 780-492-0440
geoff.mcmaster@ualberta.ca

Corporate & Display Advertising

Deadline: Thursday, noon, one week
prior to publication
Debbie Keehn, 780-492-2325
folioads@ualberta.ca

Classified Ads

Deadline: Thursday, noon, one week
prior to publication
Debbie Keehn, 780-492-2325
folioads@ualberta.ca

Talks and Events

Deadline: Thursday, noon, one week
prior to publication

Enter events online at
www.uofaweb.ualberta.ca/events/
submit.cfm

Circulation/ Change of Address

Contact Debbie Keehn at 780-492-2325
or via email at
debbie.keehn@ualberta.ca

Billing Info

Contact Fatima Jaffer at 780-492-0448
or via e-mail at
fatima.jaffer@ualberta.ca

ISSN 0015-5764 Copyright 2011



The University of Alberta maintains a
database of all alumni. This database
is used to send you news about the
U of A, including folio and New Trail,
invitations to special events and
requests for support. On Sept. 1, 1999,
post-secondary institutions were
required to comply with the Freedom of
Information and Protection of Privacy
legislation of the province of Alberta. In
accordance with this legislation, please
respond to one of the following options:

- ☐ Please keep my name, or
- ☐ Remove my name from the folio list.

Name _____
Signature _____
No response means the University of
Alberta assumes an individual wishes
to remain on the mailing list.

Mourning an untimely death at Augustana

Folio staff

The Augustana Campus
community is mourning
the passing of a dear friend,
respected colleague and valued
professor. On Nov. 10, Robert Kell
died as the result of a vehicle acci-
dent. He is survived by his wife and
two young daughters.

"Augustana is a tight-knit com-
munity, so the collective grief on
campus is palpable," says Dean Allen
Berger. "Along with his colleagues,
I will remember Rob as a passion-
ate advocate for students and an
exceptionally talented instructor
and scholar. I believe his students



Robert Kell

will remember him as a wonderfully
caring teacher and mentor."

Professor presents to House of Commons standing committee

Folio staff

On Oct. 31, Carole Estabrooks and Dorothy (Dot) Pringle
travelled to Ottawa and presented a brief to the House of
Commons Standing Committee on Health with respect to the
committee's ongoing study on chronic disease and aging. Estabrooks was
invited to speak about the Translating Research in Elder Care (TREC)
research program, a five-year study funded by the Canadian Institutes of
Health Research.

In the program, the researchers will explore the factors that influence
the use of "best practices" by staff providing care in long-term care facili-
ties in the three Canadian Prairie provinces, Alberta, Saskatchewan and
Manitoba. They also look at how the organizational environment and the
use of best practices influence resident and system outcomes. The research
program has three major projects and a series of pilot studies, which will
look across many levels within long-term care, for example, provinces,
regions, facilities, units within facilities and individuals. Pringle chairs
TREC's International Scientific Advisory Committee.

Their brief focused on dementia as a driver of nursing home admission
and on the urgent need for a co-ordinated federal and provincial response
to issues in nursing homes of quality of care, quality of daily life, quality of
end of life and quality of work life, as well as the urgent need for capacity-
building in the applied health services research area focused on aging.

After their testimony, they took questions from the members of
Parliament who sit on the health standing committee. Members from all
parties expressed considerable interest in the idea of a national long-term
care insurance act paralleling the Canada Health Act.

More on this idea can be found in HealthCare Papers, which has pub-
lished two special issues on long-term health care. For more information
on TREC, go to www.trec.ualberta.ca.

The future of military rehab in Canada

Continued from page 1

juries also present Post-Traumatic Stress Disorder (PTSD), which requires
an even more individualized and personalized treatment approach.

"Soldiers with PTSD often feel isolated and guilty that they survived
and their friends didn't," said Taylor, adding that support from family and
peers can make a world of difference for treating the disorder. "Corporal
Fuchko is a great example of why rehabilitation and a strong support struc-
ture are so important in helping vets thrive."

"Soldiers with PTSD often feel isolated and guilty..."

Cpl. Mark Fuchko

"Rehabilitation was a huge challenge for me; I felt alone and scared,"
said Fuchko. "The care I received at the U of A Hospital and the Glenrose
Rehab Hospital was the best I could have asked for, but without the sup-
port from my family and friends, I don't know where I would be at."

According to Hebert, the chair, which should be in place by the begin-
ning of 2012, will lead a co-ordinated approach to advance research and
practice in military rehabilitation.

"With leadership, through the chair, we hope to develop a strong
partnership with other experts, the Canadian Forces and Veteran Affairs
Canada to ensure we can provide our veterans the best care in the world."

To find out more about the chair, please visit: www.rehabilitation.ualberta.ca/en/Research/CFChair.

To find out more about the U of A Calgary Centre, please visit: www.calgary.ualberta.ca.

"Rob was a strong presence on
our campus, as teacher, friend and
colleague," says Jeremy Mouat,
professor of history and chair of the
social sciences department. "We'll
miss his easy smile and his ready
laugh so very much."

Kell joined the University of
Alberta's Augustana Campus in
the fall of 2007 and was both a
tenured associate professor in work
physiology and an adjunct assistant
professor with the Department of
Physical Therapy in the Faculty of
Rehabilitation Medicine.

He taught courses in exercise and
human physiology, and his research
involved musculoskeletal rehabilita-

tion as well as athlete training and
conditioning. Kell worked with ama-
teur and professional athletes, as well
as injured athletes, and those with
chronic pain. He regularly presented
at national and international confer-
ences, and published and presented
more than 50 research papers. Kell's
work has been acknowledged by
Men's Health, *Women's Health*, *USA
Today*, the *L.A. Times*, and *Arthritis
Today* magazine. He was identi-
fied as an expert in several online
journals, the *Edmonton Journal* and
the *Globe and Mail*. He co-wrote an
introductory university text on hu-
man physiology, which saw its first
edition published in 2010.



U of A printmaking professor Sean Caulfield (right) demonstrates an
interactive installation in the Perceptions of Promise exhibition.

Perceptions of Promise opens in New York

Continued from page 1

to broaden discussion around complex topics involving biotechnol-
ogy. The aim, say the contributors, is not to take positions on either
side of what can often be a divisive debate, but rather to provoke
thought and inspire questions.

"Biomedical research, especially stem-cell research, tends to be
very emotional," said Caulfield. "People have this polarized reaction
to it. If we had one broad objective, it would be to see how art might
bring a more sophisticated dialogue to the debate, because art tends
to be able to articulate emotional and psychological things much
more effectively. And I think it can bring people together."

The show was partly supported by Canada's Stem Cell Network,
the first time it has funded a group including artists.

"One of the areas where the stem cell network felt there was a
strong need was in understanding issues around stem cell research,"
said Lisa Willemse, director of communications for the network.
"This presents the essence of biotechnology to the public in a very
different way, to think about science and how it impacts their lives."

The various pieces examine biotechnology through a range of me-
dia including printmaking, photography, sculpture and video. One
interactive installation by Ingram and Bernd Hildebrandt, called
Differentiating Faith, invites participants to walk in to a tent-like
structure that creates the illusion of being suspended in the human
body. Another multimedia piece by U of A artist Daniela Schlüter
incorporates drawings of her own chromosomes, which she commis-
sioned from a laboratory.

In addition to Caulfield, Ingram and Hildebrandt, other con-
tributing artists include Derek Besant of the Alberta College of Art
and Design, Shona Macdonald of the University of Massachusetts
Amherst, Royden Mills of the U of A, independent artist Marilène
Oliver and Clint Wilson of the Art Gallery of Alberta.

Showing at the Chelsea Art Museum, a world stage for art that
presents "contemporary thematic exhibitions that foster critical
thinking about today's world," was a coup for this group of art-
ists. The space was secured and paid for the University of Alberta
International.

After its Chelsea run, the show moves on to the McMaster Art
Gallery at McMaster University in Hamilton. Negotiations are now
underway to also bring the show to Enterprise Square in Edmonton.

As for Josh Groban's reaction? "I can't say I understand it all, but
it's beautiful, and it makes you think." And that, say the artists, is the
whole point.

Spice could be used to fight against MS

Raquel Maurier

Medical researchers at the University of Alberta have discovered that an active ingredient in the Persian spice saffron may be a potential treatment for diseases that involve neuroinflammation, such as multiple sclerosis.

Chris Power and a team of researchers in the Faculty of Medicine and Dentistry recently published their findings in the peer-reviewed publication *The Journal of Immunology*.

"We found there is a compound in saffron, known as crocin, which exerts a protective effect in brain cell cultures and other models of MS. It prevented damage to cells that make myelin in the brain," Power said. "Myelin is insulation around nerves, and multiple sclerosis is characterized by inflamed brain cells that have lost this protective insulation, which ultimately leads to neurodegeneration."

Power noted they are not close to a clinical trial stage yet, but the finding is still exciting. It has been known in the research community for years that crocin protected neurons in certain situations but Power and his team wanted to delve further into this area.

His team discovered that inflammation and a specific type of cell stress are closely linked and lead to neurodegeneration and inflammation, which cause cells to lose their protective coating, a process known as demyelination. In experiments conducted by Power and his colleagues, the use of crocin suppressed both inflammation and this specific type of cell stress, resulting in decreased neurological impairment in lab models and cell cultures with multiple sclerosis.

"There are still many questions to be answered about how crocin exerts these neuroprotective effects, but this research highlights a potential treatment role for crocin in diseases involving chronic neuroin-

flammation—something that had not been recognized until now," said Power.

He said the research demonstrates a new mechanism in multiple sclerosis, provides new potential drug targets in the future and helps explain why physicians see inflammation in multiple sclerosis.

The team's research also revealed that this specific type of cell stress, called the unfolded protein response, may be caused by an ancient virus that was introduced into the DNA of early humans. This particular cell stress is found at high levels in MS brain lesions.

"We all have this ancient virus in our DNA, but for some reason it is excessively turned on in MS," says Power. "We are doing more research investigating this link."

Power has been investigating this specific area for six to seven years. His research is funded by the MS Society of Canada and the federal government through the Canada Research Chair program. ■

Students to benefit from accessible course materials

Michael Davies-Venn

University of Alberta students may soon be storing some of their usual backpack contents in their personal online space.

The U of A bookstore has joined forces with Campus eBookstore, which has partnered with Google eBooks to provide students an option that allows them to buy textbooks and other course materials in electronic form.

Wayne Anderson, associate director of the U of A bookstore, says the new service provides students with a choice that is more accessible and affordable.

"It is a great tool for students who want to have access at all times to their books," Anderson said. "Let's say a student is going home on break and wants to study, they could have their electronic library available to them because their eBooks are securely stored online. They no longer need to haul their books with them wherever they're going."

Students using the service can download copies of books they've bought to their laptops or other electronic reading devices, and also have copies in a virtual library that can be accessed from anywhere with an Internet connection.

The U of A's Google eBooks database currently holds more than 250,000 titles and is growing, Anderson said. "There's everything from academic materials to bestselling fiction."

"This is another option for students who may be looking for alternatives to traditional hard-copy books sold at the bookstore. It may be cost- and



Wayne Anderson

Program inspires champions of sustainability

Micheline Deck

University of Alberta staff, faculty members and graduate students will have the opportunity to contribute to sustainability on campus, all thanks to a new professional development program called ecoREPs being launched by the Office of Sustainability.

Scheduled to begin in the new year, the initiative is being piloted at both Augustana and North campuses. The program aims to provide university employees with the tools, ideas and resources needed to transform their work areas into more sustainable spaces.

According to sustainability co-ordinator, Emily Dietrich, ecoREPs is designed to inspire the university community to get personally involved in sustainability and, if they choose, champion change within their faculties and departments.



Called ecoREPs, a new program helps employees get personally involved in sustainability.

"The primary outcome of the program is to effect change in people's workplace," said Dietrich. "By joining friends and colleagues across campus, the collective impact of our actions can have a positive and sustainable effect on the university community and the world at large."

Program participants may choose to make changes in their personal lives or implement sustainable initiatives that match their interests or the needs of their workplace—from implementing a program to reduce paper use in their offices, to making green purchasing decisions or choosing food options for meetings that support the local economy.

Each group of ecoREPs will move through the program with a cohort of colleagues. After completing a series of workshops, participants will receive ongoing support from the Office of Sustainability and other cohort members to explore their sustainability project ideas.

"By getting involved, participants have an opportunity to be a champion for change within our institution. They will also have preferential access to the Green Grant program," adds Dietrich.

For more information about the ecoREPs program, the Office of Sustainability is hosting an information session on Nov. 23 in the Heritage Lounge at Athabasca Hall. Participants will receive a complimentary lunch and learn more about the program, what's involved in becoming an ecoREP, and how it will benefit work units across campus. The deadline for an RSVPs is Nov. 22. For more information, contact Emily Dietrich at 780.248.1959 or visit sustainability.ualberta.ca/ecoreps. ■

"Our marketplace is changing so fast, and our students are experiencing technological advances faster than ever. Our primary goal is to make sure that students get what they need now and prepare them for the future."

Wayne Anderson

time-effective for some students because, at times, the electronic versions may be cheaper than hard copies," he said.

But the benefits of the new service extends beyond students to faculty, some of whom may wish to have their published works listed in Google eBooks.

"If a faculty member decides to write a book and doesn't want to use the traditional methods of publication, there will be an opportunity for that researcher to publish their books electronically, set their price point and have it available online," Anderson said.

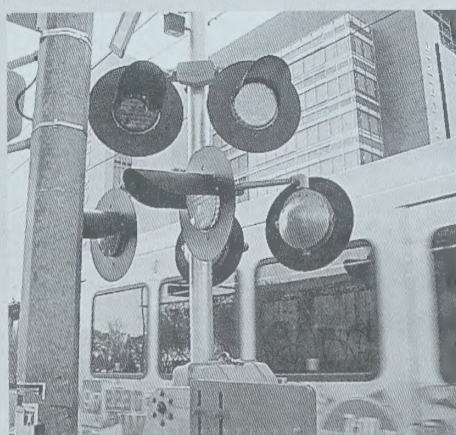
The new service helps keep the university in step with developing technologies. "Today's campus bookstores are competing everywhere; whether in-store or online, and we need something that will allow us to provide a service in the eBook market. Until now we did not have the option to provide students an option to buy electronic books," he said.

"Our marketplace is changing so fast, and our students are experiencing technological advances faster than ever. Our primary goal is to make sure that students get what they need now and prepare them for the future." ■

Are You a Winner?

Congratulations to Irina Naydorf, whose name was drawn as part of Folio's Nov. 4 "Are You a Winner?" contest. She correctly identified the photo in question as being the columns behind the north side of the Telus Centre. For her correct identification, Naydorf has won a coveted Centennial Centre for Interdisciplinary Science pen, which contains a map of the building's terrazzo floors.

Up for grabs this week is *Narratives of Citizenship: Indigenous and Diasporic Peoples Unsettle the Nation-State*, published by University of Alberta Press. To win, simply identify where the object pictured is located and email your answer to folio@exr.ualberta.ca by noon on Monday, Nov. 28, and you will be entered into the draw.



ChildSTUDY CENTRE
a love of learning grows here

University of Alberta
Faculty of Education

Registration for the
2012/2013 Jr. Kindergarten
begins December 1, 2011

Junior Kindergarten

- 2012/2013 pre-school program for children between the ages of 3.5 and 5 (age of 4 by February 29, 2013)
- inquiry-based with opportunities for in-depth investigation of children's ideas, questions, and interests
- music, art, dramatic play, creative movement, and physical education are important components of this exemplary program

The Jr. Kindergarten program runs:
Monday through Thursday, morning or afternoon
Located at the Education Building South
(87th Avenue between 112th and 114th Streets)

For more information or a tour, please visit our website, email, or call 780.492.7341.

www.childstudycentre.ualberta.ca
childstudycentre@ualberta.ca



The LRT passes through the University of Alberta campus.

Biological mathematician uses principles of geometry in signature quilts

Michael Brown

By day, Gerda de Vries is a biological mathematician, using her skill for mathematical modelling to collaborate with biologists to better understand various physiological processes at the cellular level. Not one to leave work behind, de Vries brings it home and pours math into her quilting.

De Vries, an applied mathematics researcher in the Department of Mathematical and Statistical Sciences, has developed a name for herself in the quilting world, thanks in part to the "Quilts as Mathematical Objects" lecture that she presents on campus every so often. She came by quilting quite honestly, having grown up in a Dutch household where the women knitted or sewed constantly.

"When I was six years old, I learned how to knit from my grandmother," said de Vries. "There are pictures of me standing behind a sewing machine when I was three years old, because that's what my mom was doing, so sewing was a natural thing to do."

In 1996, while working as a post-doctoral fellow in applied mathematics in Maryland, de Vries attended a quilting workshop in Washington, D.C. For her first quilt, de Vries said she just went with the flow. For her encore quilt, she was already pulling patterns out of a math book.

"I used tessellations, which is how shapes fit together without any overlap and without gaps. Think mosaics and floor tiles," said de Vries, adding her third quilt was her own design.

"One of the things mathematicians like to do is create rules and then, within the boundary of the rules, find out what all the possibilities are."

"I didn't set out to make mathematical quilts deliberately; it's something that just came about because that's the way I think. When I came to Edmonton in 1998 and joined the quilters' guild, I began displaying my quilts at exhibitions and people would recognize the signature of my quilts and say, 'Oh, that's one of Gerda's quilts.'"

A typical "Gerda quilt" might include the use of fractals—geometric objects that appear similar at all scales of magnification and that can be used to describe coastlines, trees or even lung structure. The wonder in this pattern for mathematicians is, in theory, that this process can be repeated infinitely. But in quilting, de Vries said, it goes only as far as the nimblest fingers can sew.

"A lot of math is involved in quilting, even in quilts that aren't made intentionally as mathematical quilts," said de Vries. "When I think of traditional quilts, I think of quilts where you have a block repeated over and over again, creating a pattern. As soon as you are talking about patterns, you're talking about mathematics."

"It's amazing just how many people think mathematically without realizing it."

During her quilt lecture, de Vries covers three themes: quilts that incorporate mathematical concepts, quilts that have set mathematical rules that are adhered to, and the unintentional mathematics found in traditional quilts. Speaking about setting rules and exploring the possi-

ties within the boundary of the rules strikes a chord with her audience.

"I have people come up to me after I give a lecture and say, 'I think like this,'" said de Vries. "Mathematics is just inherent. I guess that's the way we like to think." ■

staff spotlight



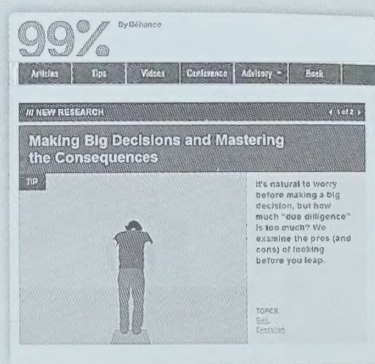
Michael Brown

surf city

Have you thought about reassessing your workspace to increase productivity? Creativity blog The 99 Percent says being productive is as easy as "setting the scene" for the tasks at hand. This means designating space for certain types of jobs, having the right tools—preferably within arm's reach—and, yes, decreasing those pesky distractions.

An important tip: "If you must complete all of your daily activities within a few square feet of space, you can trigger your mind to change activities with other small physical cues such as standing up instead of perching on your chair at your elevated desk; moving your mouse from one side of the keyboard to the other, or sliding your chair over to a different portion of your work surface. You can choose how you associate places with activities, but to achieve the full benefit, aim for a consistent link between place and behaviour."

The99percent.com



WE SUPPORT



UNIVERSITY OF ALBERTA UNITED WAY 2011 CAMPAIGN

The University of Alberta thanks the following faculty, staff, retirees and students for giving of their time to serve on the 2011 University of Alberta United Way Campaign Committee

HONORARY CHAIR

Debra Pozega Osburn
Vice-President (University Relations)

CO-CHAIRS

Margaret-Anne Armour, Faculty of Science
Lesley Cormack, Faculty of Arts
Gurston Dacks, Professor Emeritus, Faculty of Arts
Derek Roy-Brenneis, Office of the Senate
Susan Gibson, Faculty of Education
Helen Madill, Faculty of Extension
John Nychka, Faculty of Engineering
Colleen Skidmore, Office of the Provost and Vice-President (Academic)
Rosalind Sydie, Professor Emeritus, Faculty of Arts

COMMITTEE MEMBERS

Stephanie Baker, Population Research Lab
Amanda Caddy, Registrar & Student Awards
Aubrey Chau, President's Office
Jerome Donahue, Protective Services
Russell Eccles, NASA
Donna Fong, Population Research Lab

Bernice Gartner, Human Resources
Steven Gevenich, Forest Society
Edward Gots, Alberta JOC West 2011
Tara Graham, Faculty of Science
Brian Gratrix, Campus Recreation
Lorna Hallam, United Way Campaign Coordinator
Sandy Huang, Faculty of Engineering student
Vang Ioannides, Physical Education & Recreation
Farid Iskandar, Students' Union
Sarah Kowalevsky, Alberta School of Business
Breanne Krause, Alberta School of Business
Danielle Leclerc, Campus Saint-Jean
Angela McCormick, Research Services Office
Wayne McCutcheon, Facilities & Operations
Jackie McLoche, Supply Management Services
Olga Milligan, Biological Sciences
Mike Newman, Alberta JOC West 2011
Kim Schultz, Human Resources
Caroline Simpson, Alberta School of Business
Mathieu Trepier, Campus Saint-Jean
Paula William, Research Services Office
Michelle Zolner, Faculty of Extension

Researchers find additional link between Alzheimer's and prion diseases

Raquel Maurier

Medical researchers at the University of Alberta have made further links between Alzheimer's and prion diseases.

Co-investigator Jack Jhamandas, a researcher in the Division of Neurology within the Faculty of Medicine and Dentistry, said the findings reveal for the first time that neurons affected by Alzheimer's are impacted by a specific type of prion protein. He stressed these findings do not mean that Alzheimer's is transmissible.

The research discovered that beta amyloid protein, which is deposited in large quantities in the brains of Alzheimer's patients and is toxic to brain cells, ultimately causing these cells to die, may have interactions with a prion protein called PrPC. Well-known prion diseases include Creutzfeldt-Jakob disease

and bovine spongiform encephalopathy (BSE or "mad cow disease").

"Our interest is in where and how this interaction between the two proteins is taking place at a molecular level and to find some way to possibly modify it," said Jhamandas.

"This is a significant finding. We are always looking for fundamental principles or experimental findings in biology that tie different diseases together. There are many neurodegenerative diseases, where at least one or more proteins have been identified as the culprits that facilitate progression of these diseases," he said.

"Any findings that attempt to in some way link together these proteins advance our knowledge and hopefully treatment of these diverse groups of neurodegenerative diseases."

The medical research community made initial connections between Alzheimer's and prion diseases about two years ago. But the

U of A findings take these connections one step further by studying the cells that are the target of current, albeit imperfect, remedies for Alzheimer's.

"The findings show that Alzheimer's disease and prion disease have unexpected common ground at the molecular level."

David Westaway

"The findings show that Alzheimer's disease and prion disease have unexpected common ground at the molecular level," said co-investigator David Westaway, a researcher in both the Division of Neurology and the Centre for Prions and Protein Folding Diseases at the University of Alberta.

"We all have a normal prion protein in our brain cells, but this specific protein has a second life where it can become an accessory in the events of Alzheimer's disease, impacting a specific population of cells very important to Alzheimer's. The prion protein is itself a bit of an enigma, so we have to look at which part of that molecule mediates this impact in Alzheimer's."

Westaway stressed it is always important to identify new avenues of research because "you have to load the decks with fresh ways to intervene, so that at least some methods survive the gauntlet of stringent clinical testing."

Their research was funded by the Alberta Prion Research Institute and PrioNet Canada. They are continuing their work in this area. The findings were published in the peer-review publication *Journal of Neuroscience* Nov. 8. ■

Braving the chill to raise money for the United Way campaign

Jamie Hanlon

Take a nippy November day, a portable pool and a score of Alberta School of Business students and you have the makings of a very cool event: the sixth annual Jeux de Commerce West Chillin' for Charity.

Faculty, staff and students took part in the affair, including Tom Scott, the school's interim dean, and former dean and United Way Campaign chair Mike Percy, as well as Mike House, the faculty's assistant dean of development. Scott noted that, when it comes to demonstrating social responsibility, business students always rise to the occasion.

"Our students are engaged in every which way and this type of event is the best part," said Scott, noting their commitment is often

demonstrated in winter months, both with this event and the school-sponsored Five Days for the Homeless. "Our students go out and help regardless of the weather," he said.

This was U of A business student and event organizer Mike Newton's first year with the event, and while

certain conditions on the water may have shaken his spirit a little, living up to the challenge and enjoying the moment allowed "cooler heads" to prevail.

"When you see the ice forming on the water, that takes you back a little bit," he said. "But, it was good; it was super fun."

Newton noted that the event stems from the charitable component of the Jeux de Commerce competition, and University of Alberta is one of the six western institutions where similar events are held. The polar plungers raised roughly \$10,000 through donations and pledges to be

part of the event. The cold cash from this event will be donated to the campus United Way campaign.

"It's a great way to do something for a great cause," said Newton. "United Way does a lot of work with us, and this is our way of giving back." ■



Members of the campus community take a cold dip for charity.

New fund to enhance experience of energy and environment students

Jamie Hanlon

University of Alberta students studying and working in areas related to energy and the environment should start thinking about some SELF exploration.

The Shell Enhanced Learning Fund is a new funding program, sponsored by Shell Canada and administered by the University of Alberta's School of Energy and the Environment. Open to graduate and undergraduate students, the funding is to be used for such endeavours as attending or holding conferences, field trip stipends and designing conferences or securing speakers, provided that the outcomes of these activities are related to the energy and environment themes.

"In the past, Shell has supported student groups and students on an individual and faculty level," said Stefan Scherer, director of the school. "Shell clearly recognizes it has a lot of interest in students coming out of engineering and agricultural and environmental sciences. But there are also other jobs being filled by students from other backgrounds and disciplines."

Shell will provide \$100,000 in funding a year for three years. The School of Energy and the Environment (SEE) is breaking down the fund to offer \$50,000 every six months to students and groups who apply in time for the semi-annual funding deadlines of April 15 and Oct. 15. Since the first deadline for this funding cycle has passed, Scherer noted that the deadline has been extended to Nov. 30. He encouraged students to check the SEE website for details on eligibility and to understand the obligations that come with receiving funding.

"One of the expectations for the students is that they be willing to participate in an event at the end of the year with Shell representatives to report on the activities for which they received the funding," said Scherer. "It's an opportunity for Shell to see the good things their money has done. But it's also an opportunity for them to meet and make contact with the students they've been supporting."

For more information on Shell Enhanced Learning Fund opportunities, visit their website. (www.see.ualberta.ca/en/FundingOpportunities/~media/see/SELF/SELFTermsOfReferenceFinal20111018.pdf) ■

Chair University of Alberta Board of Governors

Honourable Greg Weadick, Minister of Advanced Education and Technology, is seeking applications from individuals interested in serving as the Chair of the University of Alberta Board of Governors.

The Chair ensures that the Board focuses on the broader governance task of policy-making; complies with enabling statutes and by-laws and acts in a fiscally and ethically responsible manner. The Chair will also ensure that the organization adheres to the purpose and vision established by the Board. The Chair acts as the official spokesperson of the Board and serves as a link between the Board, the President, the government and the community.

To be eligible, you should have senior leadership experience, an understanding of financial matters, have demonstrated community volunteer involvement and experience with Board governance. You should also have experience with governmental affairs as well as a demonstrated interest in the University of Alberta and an awareness of issues dealing with adult education and lifelong learning. Preference will be given to applicants who have demonstrated expertise in human resources and/or financial management as well as demonstrated experience with communications, public relations and public speaking and/or strategic planning.

Appointment: The Chair is appointed for a three-year term and may be eligible for re-appointment at the end of the term. No salary is available with this position.

This posting may be used to fill the existing vacancy and future public member vacancies.

If you are interested in this unique opportunity, please forward a resume or a statement of your related qualifications. This personal information is being collected to determine your qualifications and suitability for the position noted above. This information is collected and used under the authority of the Freedom of Information and Protection of Privacy Act. If you have any questions about this, please contact Human Resources, Alberta Advanced Education and Technology, 500, Phipps-McKinnon Building, 10020 101A Avenue, Edmonton, Alberta, T5J 3G2 Phone: (780) 427-2210; Fax: (780) 427-3316. Apply online: www.jobs.alberta.ca

For information on the University of Alberta please visit the website at: <http://www.ualberta.ca/> and for the University of Alberta Board of Governors, please visit the website at: <http://www.governance.ualberta.ca/>

Application Deadline: November 25, 2011

Both humans and climate on the hook for final exit of ice-age mammals

Folio staff

For decades, researchers have tried to pinpoint the cause of the massive loss of large-bodied ice-age mammals, or megafauna, about 10,000 years ago. The debate has largely focused on whether a particular mechanism was evident: was it humans and hunting? Climate and environmental change? An extraterrestrial impact? Or were the animals eliminated by a hyperdisease, a disease that so impacted the population numbers there was no possibility of recovery.

But a new study detailing the history of six large herbivores—the woolly rhinoceros, woolly mammoth, wild horse, caribou, bison and muskox—suggests that both climate change and humans were to blame for the extinction or near extinction of large-mammal populations within the last 10,000 years.

Duane Froese, a researcher in the University of Alberta’s Department of Earth and Atmospheric Sciences, was a contributor to the international study led by scientists at the University of Copenhagen. Froese describes the research as a massive effort where nearly 3,000 specimens of ice-age mammals were radiocarbon dated, and mitochondrial DNA sequences from ancient fossil specimens were analyzed. These data were used to understand the responses of different ice-age megafauna to the pressures of early hunters and climate change.

“This study provides direct evidence that something changed at the end of the most recent glacial cycle when many species went extinct relative to previous cycles when they all managed to survive.”

Duane Froese

“When you look at the large-scale population dynamics of the ice-age mammals sampled in this study,” said Froese, “the overarching driver is climate change, and populations of megafauna waxed and waned with changing climate.”

Froese said, “the study puts an end to the single-cause theories of ice-age extinctions.” He explained that all six of the species were cold-adapted animals that flourished when climate was cold during past glacial times, but probably experienced strong losses during periods of climate warming. The study focused on the extent to which humans changed this pattern.

The findings varied with animal type and location. While the researchers concluded climate change was directly responsible for the demise of the woolly rhino and muskox in Eurasia, ancient humans get the blame for the vanishing herds of wild horses and bison in

Siberia. Bison survived and ultimately flourished in North America as the climate warmed, but only in more southern locations, despite a large human presence. Reindeer and muskoxen managed to survive in Arctic North America despite overlapping with humans.

Froese said that the findings help to predict the fate of populations threatened by climate change and habitat alteration that is happening today.

“This study provides direct evidence that something changed at the end of the most recent glacial cycle when many species went extinct relative to previous cycles when they all managed to survive. Even with small numbers of people present at the end of the last ice age our ancestors managed to have strong impacts on natural communities.”

The research was published Nov. 2 in the online edition of the journal *Nature*.



This late Pleistocene steppe bison, recovered from a gold mining site in Klondike area, Yukon, dates from about 30,000 years ago.



Find out more:
temposchool.org

5603 - 148 Street
Edmonton, Alberta
780.434.1190

WHERE “UNIFORM”
REFERS TO CLOTHING,
NOT THINKING.

Tempo School. A safe and inviting private school serving Kindergarten to Grade 12. Alberta’s top academic school.

Rock garden tells Canada's geological story from West to Canadian Shield

Michael Brown

Professors in the Department of Earth and Atmospheric Sciences have spent parts of the last four years bringing pieces of the Rocky Mountains and other Western Canadian rock formations to the campus and arranging them into an interactive rock garden.

The Geoscience Garden, which stretches along Saskatchewan Drive north of the Earth Sciences building, features about 50 large rock samples that are placed in an arrangement suitable for learning the basics of geologic mapping and the interpretation of the

structure of the Earth's crust.

The arrangement is made up of a full range of igneous, sedimentary and metamorphic rocks ranging from one to five metres in diameter and weighing from three to 15 tons. It roughly represents a scaled-down traverse from the west, representing the Canadian Cordillera, across the Western Canada Sedimentary Basin, and onto the Canadian Shield in the east.

Supported by initial grants from the Faculty of Science Teaching and Learning Fund and by the University of Alberta Teaching and Learning Enhancement Fund, phase one

of the garden was installed in August of 2008, with phase two expected to be completed by the spring of 2012.

John Waldron, geology professor and the driving force behind the garden, said that, within the overall pattern of the garden, the rocks simulate examples of relationships between units that students will discover and learn to recognize: faults that offset the pattern of strata; intrusive contacts where magma was intruded into the surrounding rock; and unconformities where younger sedimentary strata were deposited on an older, eroded land surface.

Waldron said he came up with the idea for the garden watching rock and water features set up on campus in various places, and figured rocks could tell an interesting story if they were arranged differently. He said he was also looking for a way to reach more students, regardless of learning style, and get them interested in geology. He added that it's important to have a variety of teaching tools at one's disposal.

"Part of structural geology is about learning to think of the Earth's crust in three dimensions, and not just as a map-like surface," said Waldron.

"My experience in teaching this stuff, for nearly 30 years now, is that however much you take students

"A comparison that I sometimes make is that it's like the dissecting room for anatomy students—there is no substitute for the real thing."

John Waldron

through graphical constructions in 3-D while they are sitting at a desk, they only really 'get it' when they are immersed in the landscape and can see the orientations of the structures around them, how they extend down into the ground and how they extended up into

what is now the air, before erosion had lowered the surface to the present-day level of exposure.

"A comparison that I sometimes make is that it's like the dissecting room for anatomy students—there is no substitute for the real thing." ■



Students learn geology by observing rock garden north of Earth Sciences building.



Be seen

folio

UNIVERSITY OF ALBERTA

classified ads

Ann
Dawrant



www.anndawrant.com

RE/MAX Real Estate Centre

- 26 years as successful residential realtor specializing in west and southwest Edmonton
- Consistently in top 5% of Edmonton realtors
- Member of prestigious RE/MAX Platinum club
- Born and raised in Buenos Aires and has lived in Edmonton since 1967
- Bilingual in English and Spanish

"Call me to experience the dedicated, knowledgeable, and caring service that I provide to all my clients."

anndawrant@hotmail.com • (780) 438.7000 or (780) 940.6485

Luxury & Lifestyle

2 Bedroom, 2 Bath starting at \$378,900

Edmonton's most innovative luxury condo is waiting for you to come and enjoy.

Its contemporary architecture of brick and glass towers rise above the perfect tree-lined streets of Oliver community. Elegant double glass doors open onto a magnificent three storey foyer appointed with exotic tiles, art and a cherrywood staircase.

Finally, world class urban living has a place to call home.

MERIDIAN PLAZA

104 AVE | 109 ST | 111 ST | JASPER AVE

5 Amazing New Show Suites Open for Viewing

10142-111 Street • T: 780.497.0988 C: 780.951.4114 • Mon-Thurs: 2-7p.m. Sat & Sun: 1-5p.m.

www.meridianplaza.ca



SUSTAINABILITY
CHAMPIONS
a.k.a. **ecOREPS**
NEEDED



Make your workspace more sustainable.

Find out how:

INFORMATION SESSION

November 23, 2011

To learn more and to RSVP, please visit us online at
sustainability.ualberta.ca/ecoreps

U of A participates in first national health assessment

Michael Brown

Because good health makes for a good university experience, the University of Alberta has participated in the first National College Health Assessment.

The assessment is a standardized, North America-wide college and university survey that gives a comprehensive look at the health and wellness of students.

Results of the campus-wide student health survey, conducted in February 2011 and filled out by more than 3,000 university students, identified mental health, physical activity and healthy eating as key student health issues at the U of A.

Jameela Murji, health education team leader with University Wellness Services, said the U of A is taking a hard look at the findings, although they are not out of line with comparable post-secondary institutions, particularly in the area of mental health.

For instance, the survey found that more than half the students on campus had experienced feelings of hopelessness in the previous year, with the vast majority of respondents (87.5 per cent) indicating that at times they had felt overwhelmed. Another 65.6 per cent reported having feelings of sadness.

The survey also found 71 per cent of students indicated that if there was a mental health issue that was really bothering them, they would seek out support. However, according to statistics kept at the Mental Health Centre, only a fraction of students ever ask for help.

"We really need to be innovative and creative with the types of supports on campus available to students and really

get a better understanding of how students seek out these supports and maybe some of the barriers and stigma surrounding [receiving] support," said Murji.

Murji said the university has an amazing support system students can access, made up of everything from professionals in the Mental Health Centre and the Education Psychology Department to the Peer Support Centre.

"It is important to create awareness for students on campus that these services do exist, but also for student services to realize that these services are just one piece of the puzzle in terms of counselling services that are available,"

Heroes for Health

In an effort to get students engaged in addressing health issues on campus, University Wellness Services recently held the Heroes for Health: Healthy Campus Challenge.

With the incentive of winning \$5,000 to implement their ideas for a healthier campus, students, staff and faculty were invited to participate. More than 100 diverse participants were grouped into 17 teams to develop ideas to improve student health at the U of A. The objectives of this participatory initiative were to raise awareness of student health issues, thereby stimulating a dialogue about campus health, and to strengthen interdisciplinary relationships in the pursuit of health, which facilitates an exchange of ideas and co-ordinated efforts among campus stakeholders. The initiative also aims to identify champions in campus health and support student-driven health promotion at the U of A.

said Murji. "We need to look for other creative and innovative solutions to promote health and wellness to students who are not comfortable seeking help and who might be looking for other types of support than some of the more traditional approaches."

Other areas of concern, said Murji, include the number of students who reported a lack of nutrition, with only 15 per cent claiming to receive the recommended daily intake of fruits and vegetables, and the large percentage of students, roughly 60 per cent, not getting enough physical activity.

"Exercise and nutrition tie in directly with everything—from better concentration and good marks to the social aspect of university life," said Murji.

Murji said the university is dedicated to finding solutions to improving the health of its student body, and she takes heart in the fact that the university's attitude towards health matters is not unnoticed by its students. The survey showed that two-thirds of respondents agreed or strongly agreed that the U of A staff and faculty have a sincere interest in the well-being of the students, and indicated that their university experience has been largely positive and they feel a sense of belonging.

"It's good to see that the majority of students are feeling like they are engaged students at the U of A; quite a substantial number are engaged in clubs and intramurals and they volunteer, so I think there are a lot of positives," said Murji. "Over the last year, I have worked with so many students and have witnessed their leadership, their involvement and their engagement on our campus."

"That's wonderful to see." ■

Best and brightest recognized at campus awards gala

Campus Saint-Jean staff

Campus Saint-Jean recently feted outstanding students and community members at its scholarship presentation and awards gala.

"This year, we've granted more than \$400,000 in scholarships to some 225 students," said Denis Fontaine, assistant dean of student affairs, at the announcement Nov. 5. "That represents one of the highest ratios of scholarships per student among faculties of the University of Alberta."

Fontaine also mentioned how student life can sometimes be complicated and stressful, as most students must take jobs while pursuing their studies to make ends meet. "Thankfully, we have one of the best scholarship programs in Canada. These students can then concentrate on their studies," he added.

As Fontaine pointed out, Campus Saint-Jean has long contributed "to developing francophone leadership for the next generation, and our goal is to maintain that course."

And the number of scholarships will continue to grow for 2012, as the announcement of the endowments indicates, he said.

The Guy Goyette Memorial Fund is intended for young students who are intent on teaching in francophone schools. "In his will, Guy Goyette wished to establish an endowment fund," said Marie-Claude Levert, who introduced the scholarship fund. "Each year, three generous scholarships will be granted to third- and fourth-year students. The only requirement is for those students to work two years in a school within Alberta."

The second fund established is the Fonds en éducation Émile

et Lucille Mandin. "We are two individuals for whom education is close at heart and who consider Campus Saint-Jean, as an institution, to have played a great role during several eras of our francophone history," said Émile Mandin. "Three essentials have guided us, namely: education, the French language and community service. People who've contributed to make a better world, whether locally, provincially or globally, will be sought out for this scholarship," added Lucille Mandin.

The third fund announced is Edmonton's 2008 Canadian Francophone Games Fund, which will serve to support three projects annually: one in the arts, one in sports and one in leadership.

More than 130 guests attended Campus Saint-Jean's 2011 Awards Gala, which followed the scholarship announcement. During that



Campus Saint-Jean granted more than \$44,000 in scholarships last year.



**Strathcona
Foot & Ankle Clinic**
Dr. A Kruszelnicki, DPM
Dr. J. Prosen, DPM

- Custom Orthotics
- Sports Medicine & Injuries
- Bunions & Hammertoes
- Heel & Arch Pain
- Diabetic Foot Care
- Plantar Warts
- Ingrown or Fungal Toenails

No Referral Necessary
Strathcona Health Centre
8225 - 105 Street, Suite 210
780-430-1869

evening, three outstanding representatives of the community were honoured with the Prix d'excellence Saint-Jean.

Jean Poulin was awarded the Prix d'honneur Saint-Jean, the highest distinction bestowed by this university institution. An accomplished entrepreneur, Poulin has contributed in several ways to the community's development, especially in the area of publishing. He was also the first to establish an endowment fund with the Fondation franco-albertaine.

Mikael Slevinsky garnered the Prix avenir prometteur Saint-Jean. Considered a "Wayne Gretzky of mathematics," this math genius has been credited with two new theorems recognized worldwide, besides being associated with several published scientific articles.

Slevinsky has also received more than \$30,000 in grants to complete his doctoral studies under the direction of professor Hassan Safouhi of Campus Saint-Jean.

Ernest Côté was awarded the Prix de contribution exceptionnelle. An Edmonton native, Côté practiced law in Alberta and joined the Army in 1939. During his years of service, he was honoured with a number of campaign medals and named to the Order of the British Empire. Côté remained in the Armed Forces after the war as a deputy adjutant and eventually as a general at national defence headquarters. He held the position of deputy minister at both the Department of Northern Affairs and Veterans' Affairs. He was also deputy solicitor general and Canada's ambassador to Finland from 1972 to 1975. ■

A side order of willpower to go

Jamie Hanlon

Waste not, want not. Breakfast is the most important meal of the day. Don't snack before supper; you'll ruin your appetite.

These dietary pearls of wisdom have been dropped on children for decades, and University of Alberta researcher Robert Fisher says that while people remember them, they quite often have a hard time applying them. In an article published recently in the journal *Appetite*, Fisher's research noted that while people know the rules surrounding good eating and proper nutrition, they seem to lack one essential component in the battle of the bulge: willpower.

educational materials. Whether or not a person adheres to those values determines whether the person is rewarded or punished within that group. Descriptive norms, though, are those that define what most people do in terms of actions or behaviours. So, said Fisher, while we know that eating cheeseburgers might be bad for us, the signs in our environment give us the green light to consume.

"Not only is fast food advertising very prevalent, but you see fast food signs, restaurants and wrappers everywhere," he said. "I think, as a result, our baseline notion of what is normal is also changing. It's a bigger part of our lives than it ever has been before and there's no going back."

"You have to be both willing and able to change."

Robert Fisher

was able to synthesize his findings into scales wherein these rules were weighed against factors such as eating behaviours, body satisfaction and social desirability.

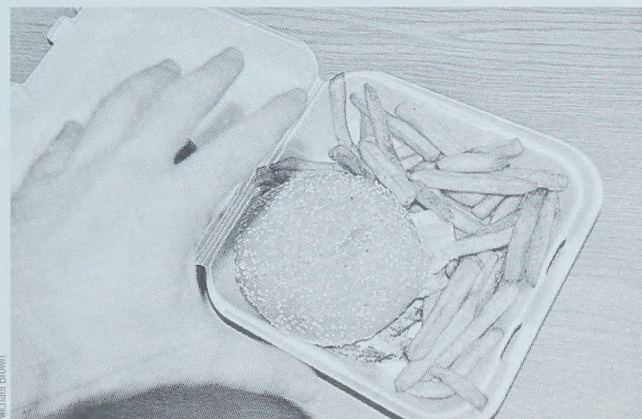
"The goal was to demonstrate that these scales are a comprehensive inventory of North Americans' most important beliefs about eating," said Fisher.

Fisher was surprised to find that people with higher body mass indexes (BMIs) had stronger beliefs associated with the rules than people with lower BMIs. Yet, he noted, there are plenty of examples in society of people knowing what to do but acting in a contradictory manner. He said the study found people with higher BMIs actually had stronger beliefs in the normative rules related to eating. The missing element, he said, was not following their individual belief structures.

"What we found is that if people undertake these behaviours, which are related to the norms, they tend to have a lower BMI," said Fisher. "Having the beliefs alone is just not sufficient."

Fisher said the issue of obesity seems to be of an almost epidemic nature in today's society. The key to solving the problem, he said, is not about repeating the messages about harmful and good eating habits. He believes that issues such as impulsive eating can be curbed and changed, but what needs to be worked on is the resolve to follow the rules people already know, and not give up.

The focus of Fisher's study, developed with Laurette Dubé from McGill University, defined the beliefs of North Americans with regards to rules about eating. Responses such as not snacking, always eating breakfast and not wasting food were common responses. Through a series of studies, Fisher



Fisher said our eating habits are a result of the battle between two conflicting sets of norms—descriptive and injunctive. Injunctive norms are beliefs of what are right or wrong or good or bad in terms of behaviours. These values arrive externally from groups such as family, peers or government, or from

Medical students develop new way to teach global health

Quinn Phillips

Two medical students in the Faculty of Medicine and Dentistry at the University of Alberta are thinking outside the box and have developed an innovative program that has been incorporated into first-year students' curriculum.

Sahil Gupta, a third-year medical student, and Haitham Kharrat, a second-year medical student, put together a program to help their first-year counterparts understand the global impact of tuberculosis, which statistics show is a global epidemic.

The program, a day-long event held Nov. 7, is called the World Health Organization Mock United Nations Healthcare Debates, where the first-year class is divided into groups and each group is tasked with representing a specific country or region. The groups met with content editors twice prior to the event and then were asked to do their own research on TB in preparation for a moderated debate.

"One thing we can get from [this mock debate] is how to treat tuberculosis," said Kharrat. "But medical students don't necessarily understand the global interplay and how the disease spreads. What [students] gain from this is an understanding and appreciation for international diplomacy and international efforts on how to combat global disease."

Last year, Kharrat and Gupta organized a similar event but it was a pilot project with just 20 students and was considered extracurricular. This year, the program is mandatory for freshmen medical students who are currently in their infectious disease, inflammation and immunology block.

"I think it's a fantastic way to broaden their learning experience because they're looking at a different perspective," said Sarah Forgie, associate professor of infectious disease and block co-ordinator. "It gives them a chance to try on a different viewpoint, and when they're debating, they really have to

take on that role. Rather than just passively learning about the information, they're actively learning."

It also helps develop some of the softer skills required by physicians, such as collaboration and public speaking, according to Kharrat. These skills fall under what is called CanMeds roles, which is compiled by the Royal College of Physicians and Surgeons of Canada.

"I think public speaking is a really important skill to have, especially if you want to get involved in health advocacy," said Kharrat. "[Public speaking can seem] scary and I think it's best to try it in a safe environment when you're with your classmates"

Forgie, who just started her master's degree in health sciences education, thinks it's wonderful that students are taking on this education initiative.

"What [students] gain from this is an understanding and appreciation for international diplomacy and international efforts on how to combat global disease."

Haitham Kharrat

"I think this is what I always hope for: that students will take on initiatives and then teach each other," said Forgie. "I think that's the best way to learn is to teach other people, and to see this amazing leadership that Sahil and Haitham have exhibited is wonderful."

"I think both Sahil and I recognize that as students we require more global health education," said Kharrat. "We need to get more involved in global health and recognize the global interplay in disease progression."



Students at WHO Mock United Nations Healthcare Debates.

Gupta and Kharrat's first-year colleagues appreciate the effort these two put in to organizing this event.

"It's been great in terms of awareness because TB isn't usually a prevalent disease in Canada," said Hilary Konder, who is in her first year of medicine. "I think it's been a great learning experience in terms of opening our eyes to what we can expect on a global scale in terms of a disease that we may not encounter here very often and how, as individual countries, we can contribute to improving global health."

"It's good to look at [tuberculosis] on a global scale because we always see cases on an individual level and very specific to Canadian health care," said first-year student Mike Dussault. "In this case the mock debate made it really personal to learn about TB because it's not just about the disease, it's about giving treatment to people."

The day-long event received funding from the Canadian Medical Association Leadership Innovation Fund. ■

PRESENTS

AN EVENING WITH
MICHAEL ONDAATJE
IN CONVERSATION WITH
MARINA ENDICOTT

Michael Ondaatje, author of the critically acclaimed novel *The English Patient*, is coming to Edmonton's Winspear Centre Nov. 22 at 7:30 p.m.

Join the University of Alberta's Festival of Ideas for a one-on-one stage interview between two award-winning Canadian authors.

Ondaatje will also give a reading from his latest book, *The Cat's Table*, and conduct a Q-and-A session with the audience. A book signing will follow.

Tickets on sale online and by phone at the Winspear box office (780-428-1414) or Tix on the Square (780-420-1757).

Reserved seating: **\$25** (plus GST and service fee)
Students and seniors: **\$15** (plus GST and service fee)

"It's not a knowledge problem. People know what they need to do. It's just doing it or being motivated enough

to do it, said Fisher. "It's really about changing behaviours. "You have to be both willing and able to change." ■

news [shorts]

folio presents a sample of some of the research stories that recently appeared on the ualberta.ca news page. To read more, go to www.news.ualberta.ca.

Drug-review program benefits patients

Researchers in the University of Alberta's School of Public Health have come out in support of Canada's Common Drug Review, saying the streamlined drug-review process may result in quicker access through drug plans to prescription drugs for patients in some provinces.

The Common Drug Review evaluates comparative benefits and costs of drugs under consideration and provides a recommendation to publicly funded drug plans about whether the drug reviewed should be listed as a potential benefit to eligible members. Decisions of the review include considering whether to list drugs with and without conditions, in a similar manner to other drugs in the same class, or whether or not to list the drug at all.

In the study, researchers identified 198 drugs and comparable drug coverage five years before and five years following the introduction of the drug review; of those, 53 drugs were recommended for approval within the review.

"We compared the proportion of drugs listed, how long it took for the drugs to be listed and whether drug plan decisions agreed with the Common Drug Review recommendations," said Dean Eurich, assistant professor in the School of Public Health.

Results of the study show that, in all participating provinces, the proportion of drugs listed decreased after introduction of the CDR. Participating drug plans listed between 47 per cent and 66 per cent of new drugs in the five years before the CDR and between 12 per cent and 40 per cent in the five years following.

Eurich says that the shorter period between the review and approval of drugs may result from the more streamlined process and sharing of information across the participating plans. He adds that there may be positive economic implications related to the Common Drug Review as the administrative burden for evaluating and approving drugs is reduced.

Patients may also benefit from an increased element of protection that comes with quicker access to new drugs.

The researchers conclude that, "Any significant gains in the efficiency of publicly funded drug plans to make listing decisions are important factors in maintaining the health and safety of Canadian patients."

Medical researcher pens top science paper

A researcher with the Faculty of Medicine & Dentistry recently accepted an award for the top basic science paper of the year from the U.S. journal *Hypertension*.

Jason Dyck, a researcher in the departments of pediatrics and pharmacology, said he was excited about receiving the prestigious honour this fall. The research paper demonstrated that healthy, lean lab models genetically predisposed to hypertension could prevent a rise in their blood pressure when they consumed fewer calories over a five-week time span.

"It was the first time we published a paper on hypertension and the first time we published a paper in that journal, so I feel fortunate and honoured that our work was recognized by experts in the field," says Dyck.

Hypertension editors selected the top papers in the fields of basic, clinical or population sciences based on various criteria, such as the number of online accesses by readers, number of citations and the quality, novelty and scientific impact of the papers.

Dyck, who is also an AIHS senior scholar and the director of the Cardiovascular Research Centre at the U of A, said his research team is continuing their work in this area, hoping to identify how calorie restriction prevents hypertension in lean animal models.

Alberta Medical Association honours faculty

Two members of the Faculty of Medicine & Dentistry have been honoured by the Alberta Medical Association.

Thomas Salopek and Anthony Fields were two of three physicians awarded the Medal for Distinguished Service by the AMA this fall. The award is given to doctors who show commitment to their community and passion for their work.

"I'm very delighted they selected me," said Salopek, the director of the Division of Dermatology since in 2006. "It's a great honour for me as an individual but also for the university and our discipline."

"It felt like a very special, high-level kind of peer recognition," said Fields, a professor in the Department of Oncology. "At the same time, I felt very conscious of the fact that, as a health administrator, I receive credit for the collective work of others. I wish there could be a way to share this credit."

The Medal for Distinguished Service is the highest honour the AMA can bestow on a person in the medical profession. ■

Karen Fox inducted as Fellow of the Academy of Leisure Sciences

Jane Hurly

When Robert Frost penned his famous poem, "The Road Not Taken," he may well have been writing it for leisure professor Karen Fox, who has rarely, if ever, shied from exploring leisure topics some might think were well off the beaten path.

On the journey, she has pioneered leisure studies in hip-hop and aboriginal young people and native Hawaiian people's perspectives of leisure; she's walked in the footsteps of one of Canada's most famous outdoorswomen, Margaret Fleming, and is about to embark on a study of the benefits of yoga and meditation on neuromuscular disease.

"This shows the vibrancy and robustness of the academy and to the range of leisure research it honours."

Karen Fox

"I do the kind of leisure research that typically doesn't get done," she said. It has come to the notice of her peers. This year her life's work has earned her the recognition of being named a Fellow of the Academy of Leisure Sciences, an honorary society "composed of eminent scientists who have made outstanding and distinctive contributions to the leisure, park and recreation sciences."

"I am honoured," said Fox. "This shows the vibrancy and robustness of the academy and to the range of leisure research it honours. It's also gratifying to increase the ranks of Canadians in the academy, too."

Fox began working with aboriginal youth when her doctoral student Brett Lashua, a talented musician, wanted to explore music as leisure for his doctoral degree. "I was interested in how difficult it was for these young people to access something of their own choosing—something they thought would be vital to them."

Born in Hawaii, Fox's affinity to, and research on, native Hawaiians' perspectives of leisure is ongoing.



Karen Fox and her dog Zander are active in the community, volunteering in a pet therapy program for people experiencing major mental illnesses.

She is particularly interested in the illegal annexation of the Kingdom of Hawaii in the 19th century, followed by laws governing dress and leisure. "It is also one of the few indigenous languages that have a word for leisure," she said.

As she looks to the future, Fox doesn't see ending her career anytime soon. Besides launching into a study examining the benefits of yoga and meditation for those with neuromuscular diseases, "I have three books I want to write: one on leisure theories, one of native Hawaiians' understanding and perspective of leisure and one on Margaret Fleming's life."

And if that were not enough, Fox says, "I've always wanted to teach a course on leisure theory based on surfing. And this might become a reality thanks to some colleagues who are putting together such a course."

For Fox, an avid whitewater kayaker who thrives on the unpredictability of the river, the sport is very much a metaphor for her long and eclectic career as a leisure scientist. "A wave is never static; you always have to attend to that. You're never in control but you have to be skillful in how you manoeuvre through that environment. Much like my career, which has been, and is still, an exhilarating ride." ■

classified ads

ACCOMMODATIONS FOR RENT

239 RHATIGAN ROAD. 4 bedroom, 4 bath, furnished executive home. Close to river valley, schools, university and transit. Must see! \$2,500/month. Call Michael Jenner or Janet Fraser at 780-441-6441 or email jennfra@interbaun.com. Gordon W.R. King & Assoc. Real Estate Corp.

CAMPUS SAINT-JEAN AREA. 4 bedroom, 3.5 bath, newer home for lease. Stunning, stylish, top of the line throughout. Partially furnished and move in ready. \$2,700/month. Call Michael Jenner or Janet Fraser at 780-441-6441 or email jennfra@interbaun.com. Gordon W.R. King & Assoc. Real Estate Corp.

LIVE IN OLD STRATHCONA. University minutes away. Beautiful 2 bedroom, 2 bath, unique style. Executive condo. \$1,600/month. Call Michael Jenner or Janet Fraser at 780-441-6441 or email jennfra@interbaun.com. Gordon W.R. King & Assoc. Real Estate Corp.

BELGRAIVA. Beautiful, quiet, close to everything. 2 bedroom, 2 bath stylish large condo. University area. Call today. \$1,800/month. Call Michael Jenner or Janet Fraser at 780-441-6441 or email jennfra@interbaun.com. Gordon W.R. King & Assoc. Real Estate Corp.

MILLCREEK. 3 bedroom home. Renovated with bright, developed

basement. 1 block to bus route and grocery store/café. University staff or mature students only. \$1,475 not including utilities. Dec. 1/11 or Jan. 1/12. Contact Dan/Jen at 780-438-3804

GREENFIELD. 3 bedroom, 1,200 sq. ft. bungalow in Greenfield. Fully furnished. Walking distance to schools and transportation. \$1,800/month. Available Feb. 1. 780-246-2264.

FOREST HEIGHTS. Bright spacious 2 bedrooms over looking park with view, centrally located. 1 1/2 bathrooms, fireplace, blinds, 6 appliances and deck. N/S, lease \$1,300, utilities included. 10309 84 St. 780-922-0709.

U of A / WHYTE AVENUE. 10417 85 Ave. Furnished 2 bedroom house with updated amenities and renovated bathroom. \$2,200/month. Contact Darren Singh 780-989-2963 or cell: 780-710-7299.

BELGRAVIA. Bright bungalow in Belgravia. 2 bedrooms up, 2 bedrooms down. Fenced yard. Garage. Non-smoking. \$1,500/month plus utilities. Available Dec. 1. 780-436-0946.

PLEASANTVIEW. 3 bedroom, 2 fireplaces, garage. Immediate. \$1,450/month. 780-433-5932.

STUNNING MCKERNAN. 4 bedroom, 2.5 bathroom. \$2,500/month, 1.7 km to U of A. Available from Dec. 15. Phone

780-709-9728 or email vivequin@ualberta.ca. More information at <http://bit.ly/McKernanHouseForRent>.

ACCOMMODATIONS FOR SALE

NICE STARTER HOME. By LRT. Less than a rent payment. For pictures, go to Kijiji.ca and search Ad #327529476.

MISCELLANEOUS

David Young, professor emeritus of anthropology, and Michiko Young, who was with Alberta International for many years, conduct culture tours to Japan, visiting castle towns, hot spring resorts, country inns and either Kyoto or Nara. If you are interested in receiving information on their next tour in late October of 2012, please send an email to dey-oung2@hotmail.com.

GOODS FOR SALE

MINKHA SWEATER SALE/OPEN HOUSE: Saturday Dec. 10 from 9 a.m.–3 p.m. at Windsor Park Community Hall—11840 87 Ave., Edmonton. Come see the artistry of hand-knit designer sweaters made by Bolivian women. Order or purchase exquisite cotton and alpaca sweaters, scarves, ponchos, shawls for men and women. New this year—a few items for children. All profits return to the knitters, Minkha Women's Cooperative in Cochabamba, Bolivia. This is a Save-the-Children volunteer staffed event. Buy a gift that gives back! www.minkhasweaters.com. Jennifer 780-434-8105, Linda 780-436-5732.

Northern students discover connection to engineering

Richard Cairney

A group of students from northern Alberta got a first-hand look at how engineering principles can improve water quality in their home town.

“I thought engineering had more to do with cars or something, but it's also about helping the world, with things like better water treatment.”

Clarissa Loonskin

Students from the South Tall Cree School at the Tall Cree Reserve in northern Alberta participated in an interactive presentation on water

quality by the U of A's Engineers Without Borders student chapter. By sheer coincidence, communities in the Tall Cree area have had boil-water orders in effect since August because of water-quality issues.

The Engineers Without Borders presentation demonstrated how different countries with different financial and educational resources are more or less capable of designing and building technologies that provide clean water.

Grade 10 student Clarissa Loonskin said the presentation was relevant. Last year, she noted, the school got involved in a local water-quality study. “We took water samples and sent them to Edmonton for testing,” said Loonskin, adding that she was surprised to learn that engineers would be involved in water quality.

“I thought engineering had more to do with cars or something, but

it's also about helping the world, with things like better water treatment,” she said.

Paul Barsketis, the principal at the local high school, said the students' two-day trip to Edmonton is a reward for their solid performance so far this school year. Students from grades 7 to 12 were challenged to excel in attendance, academics and in attitude for the first six weeks of the school year—nearly all of them met the challenge.

Aaron Stevenson, a high school teacher at Tall Cree School, said trips like this remove the mystery and sense of the unknown that students in the small community have about university life.

“An experience like this helps remove a wall,” he said. “They're here with a group of their peers, and I hope that seeing the place and learning about it and knowing what it takes to get here motivates them.” ■



South Tall Cree School students (L-R) Clarissa Loonskin, Faith D'or and Kenneth Noskiye examine water quality samples as part of a presentation by the U of A's Engineers Without Borders student chapter. The students, from northern Alberta, found a connection between engineering and clean water—an ongoing concern in their own community.

talks & events

Talks & Events listings do not accept submissions via fax, mail, email or phone. Please enter events you'd like to appear in folio and at www.news.ualberta.ca/events. A more comprehensive list of events is available online at www.events.ualberta.ca. Deadline: noon one week prior to publication. Entries will be edited for style and length.

Until March 30

Ally Sloper & C.H. Chapman exhibition. Alexander “Ally” Sloper is the mad-cap fictional character who appeared in British serialized comics between 1867 and 1916. This exhibit highlights a sampling of Sloper's most memorable antics from Ally Sloper's Half Holiday, further enriched with a biography of Charles Henry Chapman and original pen-and-ink drawings on loan from Chapman's descendants. This exhibit is on display in the Bruce Peel Special Collections Library.

Until Feb. 28

I'm No Superman: The Comic Collection of Gilbert Bouchard. The exhibit pays tribute to the life of Gilbert Bouchard and his contributions to Edmonton's arts and culture scene and draws attention to what has become an important literary and artistic medium; the comic book. Rutherford Library.

Nov. 18–20

Parkland Fall Conference 2011. The conference will explore the current attack on workers and unions seen in places like the United States and Britain, and look at the warning signs that this anti-public sector worker wave is already on its way to Alberta and Canada. For more information go to <http://parklandinstitute.ca/fallconference2011>.

Nov. 19

Healthy Campus Symposium. An initiative of University Wellness Services and the Office of the Vice-Provost and Dean of Students, this symposium will showcase healthy campus project ideas from students and staff who participated in the “Heroes for Health: Healthy Campus Challenge” earlier this semester. The projects focus on healthy eating, active living and mental health—key health issues identified in a campus-wide student health survey circulated last winter. 10 a.m.–2:30 p.m. Maple Leaf Room, Lister Conference Centre.

Nov. 20

University Strings in Concert. The University Strings performs Aaron Copland's Appalachian Spring: the Original Version for 13 instruments. Admission by donation. 2–4 p.m. Convocation Hall, Old Arts Building.

Nov. 23

Research Colloquium—The Origins of Print Culture in the Northwest. The School of Library & Information Studies invites you to attend the following Research Colloquium presented by Patricia Demers, professor in the Department of English and Film Studies and Comparative Literature Program. Although the imprints of early Alberta newspapers have been micro-filmed and digitized, the once widely disseminated texts of the mission press have dwindled to a precious few with limited circulation. This illustrated talk will concentrate on the products of the Paris-made Stanhope hand press brought to Athabasca County by Oblate missionary Émile Grouard in 1877 and his unstinting efforts throughout his sixty-year ministry to preach and print in the language of the people. The fact that he created and transported the press, fonts, and copper plates to each of his posts underscores his belief in the medium as a rich source from which inexhaustible floods of light gush forth. Noon–1 p.m. 2-09 Rutherford South.

Health Law Seminar Series. A Legacy of Missed Opportunities: The Case of Ashley Smith

Howard Sapers, Correctional Investigator of Canada. This is an open public lecture. RSVP hli@law.ualberta.ca. Noon–1 p.m. Room 237 Law Centre.

Nov. 24

Punctuation and Cookies. The Centre for Writers invites everyone to participate in weekly, free workshops on the English language. Free food. 11 a.m.–noon. Assiniboia Hall 1-23.

Panel on “The 1932–1933 Ukrainian Famine: Recent Perspectives. Presentations will be given by Ukrainian studies professor John-Paul Himka on the Recent

Literature on the Ukrainian Famine of 1932–33: The Problem of Sacralization; Bohdan Klid, assistant director of the Canadian Institute of Ukrainian Studies, on Stalin, Nationalism and the 1932–33 Famine in Ukraine and The Kuban; and Danielle Granville of Oxford University on Ukrainian Diaspora Activism and the Politics of Holodomor Recognition. 2–5:35 p.m. 258 Tory Building.

Celebration of Service. Hosted by Human Resources Services, the Celebration of Service is an annual event held to recognize faculty and staff members who have 25, 30, 35, 40 or 45 years of service within the calendar year. Please contact Sarah Flower, sarah.flower@hrs.ualberta.ca or 780-492-2249 for additional information. 3–6 p.m. Myer Horowitz Theatre, SUB.

Opportunities and Risks: Canada's Trade Policy in Troubled Seas. A CN Trade Relations Forum. John Weekes, international trade policy advisor, will speak. 5–6:30 p.m. 4-06 School of Business Building.

Night @ the Bookstore. Everyone loves a discount. Kick start your holiday shopping. Alumni can take advantage of a 20 per cent product discount (Microstore and textbooks excluded), musical entertainment, draw prizes, and holiday-themed treats & beverages. Bring along your friends and family. Treat yourself and your wallet. Pre-register to confirm your space and to be eligible for a bonus draw prize. colleen.elliott@ualberta.ca or 780-492-0866. 5:30–7:30 p.m.

Nov. 25

Doing CBRE Well: Ethically and With Rigour. Community-Based Research and Evaluation is an approach to research and evaluation in which partners from the community, university, and/or government collaborate for mutually beneficial outcomes. Learn more about CBRE at www.cup.ualberta.ca/cbre-workshop-series or contact Marilyn at cup@ualberta.ca or at 780-492-6177. These workshops are open to all who wish to attend and may be of particular interest to service providers, policymakers, graduate students, and researchers. 8:30 a.m.–3 p.m. \$55 each (includes lunch and refreshments). Enterprise Square.

Cell Biology Friday Seminar Series. Marek Michalak, professor, in the Department of Biochemistry, will give a talk entitled Endoplasmic reticulum quality control and calcium signalling. Noon–1 p.m. 6-28 Medical Sciences Building (take West elevators).

Wind Music from Around the World. The Symphonic Wind Ensemble performs wind music from around the world featuring works by Japanese composer Yasuhide Ito, French composer Darius Milhaud, Dutch composer Johann de Meij and American composer Roger Nixon.

Admission by donation. All donations go to support the Department of Music's more than 20 music different ensembles. 8–10 p.m. Convocation Hall, Old Arts Building.

Nov. 26

World Music Sampler. Join the Indian Music, West African and Middle Eastern & North African music ensembles for an evening of music from around the world. Admission by Donation. 8–10 p.m. Convocation Hall, Old Arts Building.

Nov. 27

The Rose in the Middle of Winter. The Madrigal Singers present a concert of anthems, carols and motets appropriate for the season of Advent, including compositions by Brahms, Britten, Chilcott, Hammerschmidt, Schütz, Sweelinck and Willan. Admission by donation. 8–10 p.m. Convocation Hall, Old Arts Building.

Dec. 1

Articles and Apple Pie. The Centre for Writers invites everyone to participate in weekly, free workshops on the English language. Free food. Noon–1 p.m. Assiniboia Hall 1-23.

Dec. 1–10

U of A Studio Theatre presents Fuddy Meers. This play written by David Lindsay-Abaire and is guest directed by Ron Jenkins 7:30 p.m. Timms Centre for the Arts. \$5 Preview Wednesday Nov. 30 at 7:30 p.m. Matinée, Dec. 8 at 12:30 p.m.

laurels

Merrill Distad, associate director of libraries (Research and Special Collections Services) has been presented with the Historical Recognition Award for his extraordinary contributions to making documents of the history of Edmonton and Alberta available and accessible. The award was presented at the 37th Annual Recognition and Plaque Awards for the Edmonton Historical Board.

Sushanta Mitra, a professor in the Department of Mechanical Engineering, has been named a Fellow of the American Society of Mechanical Engineers.

Glynnis Hood, a professor at Augustana Campus, has been awarded the 2011 CAFA Distinguished Academic Early Career Award from the Confederation of Alberta Faculty Associations.

Sadok El Ghoul, a professor at Campus Saint-Jean, has been named a recipient of the 2011 Moskowitz Prize for Responsible Investing by the Centre for Responsible Business at UC Berkeley's Haas School of Business.

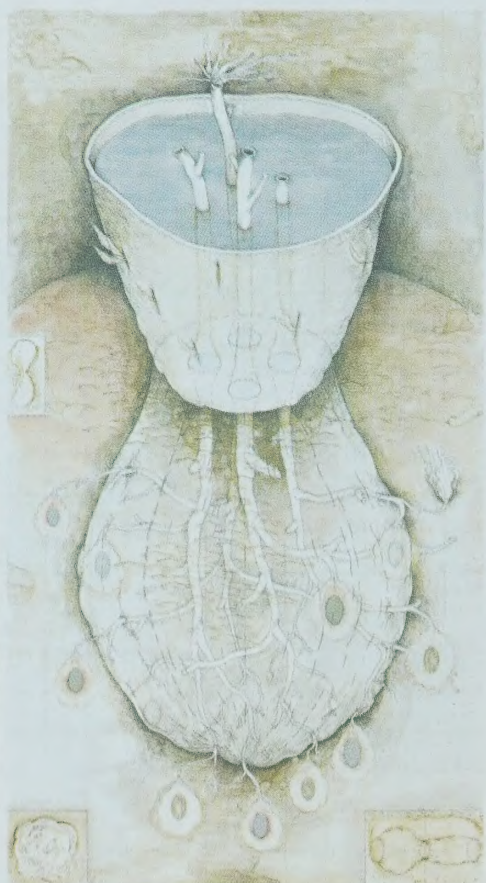
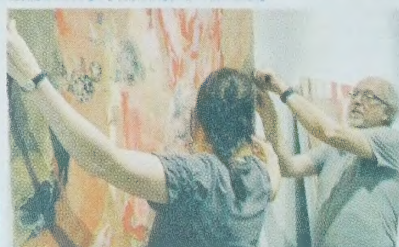
Alexander Clark, professor in the Faculty of Nursing, has been named as one of Avenue magazine's 2011 Top 40 Under 40.



PERCEPTIONS OF PROMISE

BIOTECHNOLOGY, SOCIETY & ART

This interdisciplinary exhibition, an exploration of the legal, ethical and social issues around stem-cell research through the eyes of U of A and other internationally known artists, officially opened Nov. 10 at the Chelsea Art Museum in mid-town Manhattan.



the
BackPage